

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 10434 121044Z  
ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 OES-07 /040 W  
-----057181 121045Z /13

R 101028Z SEP 77  
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3654  
INFO AMCONSUL CASABLANCA  
AMEMBASSY MADRID

UNCLAS LAGOS 10434

E.O. 11652 : NA  
TAGS : EFIS, NI  
SUBJ : SOVIET FISHERY EXPORTS TO NIGERIA

REF: A) STATE 209575, B) STATE A-425, JAN. 26, 1976

1. ACCORDING TO FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES (FDF), IMPORTS OF FISH INTO NIGERIA IN 1976 TOTALLED 300,039 TONS. OF THIS, CATCH BROUGHT IN VIA DISTANT WATER CHARTER VESSELS AMOUNTED TO ONLY 124,880 TONS. THUS APPEARS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT NIGERIA IMPORTED 350,000 TONS OF MACKEREL FROM ANY SOURCE. ALTHOUGH SOVIETS, BULGARIANS AND ROMANIANS KNOWN TO BE ACTIVE IN DISTANT WATER CHARTER VESSEL FLEETS, IT IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL FROM GOVERNMENT STATISTICS WHAT IS SOURCE OF FISH THEY BRIG INTO NIGERIA. WE HAVE ALSO INTERVIEWED FMG OFFICIALS, BUT MEANINGFUL DATA VERY DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN.

2. EMBASSY KNOWS OF ONE SPECIFIC COMPANY, SIPOL, WHICH IMPORTS FISH FROM LAS PALMAS THROUGH SUPPLIER NAMED LUIS REINA. HOWEVER, DO NOT KNOW WHETHER SIPOL OR OTHER COMPANIES IMPORTING ATLANTIC MACKERAL FROM ICNAF AREA VIA LAS PALMAS.

3. WE WILL ATTEMPT TO FOLLOW UP CONTACTS MADE WITH FISHING COMPANIES DURING RECENT FISHING TRADE MISSION IN ORDER OBTAIN INFORMATION. ALSO ATTEMPTING OBTAIN INFORMATION ON PRICES,  
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METHOD OF LANDING, SPECIES, TERMS OF TRADE AND OTHER DETAILED QUESTIONS RAISED IN PARA 4 REFAIRGRAM. NO SUCH DATA ARE AVAIL-  
ABLE FROM FDF PUBLICATION. RE QUESTION PARA 7 REFAIR AS TO REASON FOR ABRUPT STOPPAGE OF SOVIET FISHERYEXPORTS TO NIGERIA IN 1964 AND 1965, WE NO LONGER HAVE ENCLUSURE TO REFAIR WHICH PRESUMABLY SHOWS SOVIET FISH EXPORT DATA. HOWEVER, FORMER DIRECTOR OF FISHERIES SAID MAIN REASON FOR REDUCTION OF IMPORTS

FROM DISTANT WATER FLEETS AT THAT TIME WAS IMPOSITION OF IMPORT  
RESTRICTIONS BY NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT DUE SCARCITY OF FOREIGN  
EXCHANGE.

4. EMBASSY POUCHING ANNUAL REPORTS OF FDF FOR 1970 THROUGH  
1974 PLUS RECENTLY COMPLETED STATISTICAL SURVEY OF NIGERIAN  
FISH PRODUCTION FOR 1975/76 WHICH ALSO INCLUDES IMPORT  
STATISTICS FOR THOSE YEARS. CHIEF STATISTICS OFFICER OF FDF  
MOSES O. OKPANEFE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY CONSTRUCTIVE COMMENT RE  
METHODOLOGY AND CONTENT OF STATISTICAL SURVEY.  
WYMAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Reference:** 77 STATE 209575, 77 STATE A-425  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009